

CAPITOL REPORT

News & Updates from Your State Capitol
By Arkansas Secretary of State Mark Martin

Petitions, Training Pave Way for General Election

There is never a slow year for the Secretary of State's Elections division, but this year has been especially hectic.

The post-census redistricting process means that every seat in the Arkansas General Assembly and all four Congressional seats are up for re-election. Verifying petition signatures is also a major duty of the division. The Arkansas Constitution provides citizens the right to propose statutes and constitutional amendments, as well as challenge legislation through the petition process. A specified number of registered voters must sign each petition for the "initiatives" and "referenda" to be placed on the ballot in a General Election.

Since late June, the Elections division has been counting and verifying more than 350,000 petition signatures. The office hired more than 80 temporary employees and an independent accounting firm to assist in the process. As we are going to press, the Arkansas Supreme Court is reviewing three of the four petitions submitted. To see the final list of ballot issues that will be up for vote, visit our website: www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections and click on "Initiatives and Referenda."

In the General Election, voters will also consider two proposals referred from the Arkansas General Assembly:

Issue No. 1 is known by its popular name, "An amendment to provide additional funding for state highways, county roads, city streets, bridges and other surface transportation."

Issue No. 2 is known as "An amendment concerning municipal and county financing of sales tax anticipated revenue bond projects, unfunded liabilities of closed local police and fire pension plans, and real and tangible personal property."



Elections staff work to process submitted petitions.

Polling sites; early and absentee voting

The General Election is Tuesday, November 6. "Polls will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. as usual," Secretary Martin said. "But voters need to be aware that their polling site may have changed this year because of redistricting.

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The Secretary's Minute

What a summer this has been at the Secretary of State's office. I am pleased to update you on the many activities we have conducted over the past few months.

During the May preferential primary, we unveiled our new election night reporting system, allowing anyone with Internet access to monitor poll returns in real time. Through a link on our website, www.sos.arkansas.gov, users can search results by race or location, viewing county results, voter turnout and other statistics.

This summer we accepted and verified signatures on a variety of petitions. Those meeting statutory guidelines will appear on the November General Election ballot for voters to decide. More information is available in the Elections article at left.

At the Capitol itself, we replaced the skylight domes on the House and Senate chambers.

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These had leaked for years despite numerous repairs. A grant from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council allowed us to completely replace the domes. I appreciate and am proud of the work involved in preserving this magnificent building for future generations.

Our Business & Commercial Services division has continued the popular informational seminars for notaries public. We expanded and improved the class this year, with over 600 people attending the 25 spring sessions. We are excited to announce the fall schedule on page 3 of this newsletter.

The Communication & Education division touched hundreds of Arkansans this summer through tours of the Capitol, classroom visits in the spring and outreach to county and community leaders. Our Education team conducted continuing-education workshops for teachers this summer, offering the Capitol as an educational resource for Arkansas students.

We will continue activity this fall and winter. The Elections division will administer the General Election in November. Our Building & Grounds crews will prepare the Capitol for Christmas, and ComEd will coordinate the annual lighting ceremony and two weeks of choral Christmas music. BCS will file thousands of last-minute annual reports as businesses file delinquent franchise taxes.

I encourage you to watch our website for information on these projects, and contact my office if we can be of assistance to you. You can also like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ARSecofState and follow us on Twitter (@ARSecofState).

Mark Martin

Arkansas Secretary of State

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Capitol Updates Include New Skylights, Motion Sensors

More than a century ago, the leaking roof of the Arkansas State House led to collapsing ceiling tiles and, ultimately, the construction of the State Capitol. But when the domes of the Capitol's House and Senate chambers began leaking several years ago, such a drastic solution wasn't needed.

Over the years, the House and Senate domes have been repaired numerous times but always began leaking again. This summer, through a grant from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council, the Secretary of State's Office replaced the House dome and is currently replacing the Senate dome.

"I am very pleased with the work already done," Secretary Martin said. "Both as Secretary of State and especially as a former legislator, I have been very aware of the leakage problems. During my time as a state representative, we had trash cans sitting on our desks on rainy days to deal with leaks. This project means the 2013 class of legislators will not have to do that."

Workers replaced one section of glass skylight and copper skin at a time, only removing what they could reinstall that day. The House dome, which leaked most, was done first and completed in late June.

The dry summer has sped the project, Martin said. "Thanks to clear skies, we finished ahead of schedule."

Work on the Senate dome began August 20 and is scheduled to wrap up later this fall.

Other work around the Capitol has improved energy efficiency. Most of the lights in public areas of the building are connected to motion sensors, saving electricity by being lit only when the area has traffic. New, more energy-efficient cooling towers keep the building more comfortable at a lower cost.

"By replacing and updating worn-out or inefficient parts of the Arkansas State Capitol, we are preserving it for our children and grandchildren," Martin said. "Thousands of visitors come to the Capitol every year, and they all comment on what a beautiful, well-maintained building this is. We are continuing and improving maintenance to keep them coming back."



Recent work around the Capitol has included replacement of the Senate dome (above and below) and maintenance on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and other monuments (at left)



Franchise Taxes Continue Until Company Dissolves

Every for-profit business entity, whether domestic or foreign, pays an annual fee to do business in Arkansas. That fee, known as a franchise tax, is due by May 1 each year. Even if your company has ceased doing business in Arkansas, franchise taxes and penalties will continue to accrue until you formally dissolve the company with the Arkansas Secretary of State. You must formally dissolve before December 31, 2012, to avoid paying franchise taxes in 2013.

Dissolution Process:

1. Bring the entity into good standing with the Secretary of State.
 - a. All back franchise taxes must be paid.
2. Submit the final report form and pay final franchise tax.
3. File Articles of Dissolution with the Secretary of State.
 - a. Forms are available online: www.sos.arkansas.gov/bcs
 - b. Articles of Dissolution must be mailed in or filed in person with an original signature. Online dissolution is not possible.
 - c. Pay applicable dissolution fee (see chart below):

Franchise Taxes can be paid online, by mail or in person. Articles of Dissolution are not available for online filing. For more information, visit the website listed above or call (501) 682-3409.

Dissolution Fees

a. Application for certificate of withdrawal (Foreign)	\$300.00
b. Articles of dissolution (Domestic)	\$ 50.00
c. Articles of dissolution domestic (LLC)	\$ 50.00
d. Application for certificate of withdrawal by foreign limited liability company (Foreign)	No Fee

Continuing Education Offered for Notaries Public

It's the final stretch for the fall notary public seminars. With just a few sessions remaining on the schedule, now is the time to claim your spot. The free 90-minute seminars are geared toward both prospective



and current notaries public in Arkansas. The Arkansas Secretary of State's office encourages notaries to attend for important information about the ever-changing Arkansas notary

public laws and regulations.

There are three convenient options for registering: online at www.1.usa.gov/ARnotary, by e-mail at danielle.fusco@sos.arkansas.gov, or by calling (501) 682-5286 or

toll free at (888) 233-0325.

Private training sessions for your company or organization are also available for scheduling through the contacts above.

Upcoming Notary Seminars

Oct. 11 — Rogers

Oct. 12 — Fayetteville

Oct. 23 — Pine Bluff

Fall Exhibit Tells Civil War Plight of State Archives

The fall Capitol exhibit, "Archives in Motion," tells the story of how Arkansas's state records escaped, then returned to the capital city during the Civil War.

A century and a half ago, Union troops advanced into Arkansas while the Civil War raged across the South. In the summer of 1862, as the conflict edged westward, Governor Henry Rector feared the Yankees would strike hard and fast toward Little Rock from Searcy, so the state government moved temporarily to Hot Springs.

This move required the state's archives to be removed from the capital city and sent to a safe place. Ultimately, the records were moved to Hot Springs, but not before they were loaded onto the steamboat *Little Rock*, shipped downriver, then back up as far as Dardanelle, loaded onto wagons, then transported around and through the Ouachita Mountains to Hot Springs. While there, treasury employees devoted their efforts to signing and issuing treasury warrants, unsecured paper money.

After a short sojourn in the Spa City, the records and



Cartoon by John Woodward, 1862, "They cross 'the divide' of Petit Jean Mountain"

government workers returned to Little Rock, this time via the long-established stagecoach road. There matters rested until September 1863, when the Confederate state government fled to the town of Washington, where it remained for the rest of the war. Parts of the archives of that day survive in the collections of the Arkansas History Commission and the Arkansas Secretary of State.

"Archives in Motion" is a collaboration between the Secretary of State's office and the Arkansas History Commission. It will feature a selection of materials that may have made the long trip to Hot Springs in 1862. It will debut on September 15 and remain on display through November 18.

The Capitol's Christmas exhibit will feature the return of Legos®. Intricate scenes in the first-floor display cases will show the flexibility of the building-block system and the enthusiastic ingenuity of local Lego architects. The Christmas exhibit will open concurrently with the Capitol Lighting Ceremony, Saturday, December 1, and remain on display through December.

Voter Education Programs Give Students a Voice, Too

What if you knew you could do one thing that might help predict the future? Even if it was the *near* future, that could be exciting.

And that's exactly what students in Arkansas and other states do every four years.

During election years, the Secretary of State's office participates in the National Student/Parent Mock Election with schools across Arkansas. Participating students vote on the same state and national candidates that will appear on November's General Election ballot. In the process, they learn about elections and the importance of voting.

So what does that have to do with predicting the future? Like any prediction or forecast, it's not always accurate. But national media watch the results of this event as a possible indicator of the election's outcome, reasoning that most children will vote according to what they hear their parents say about a candidate.

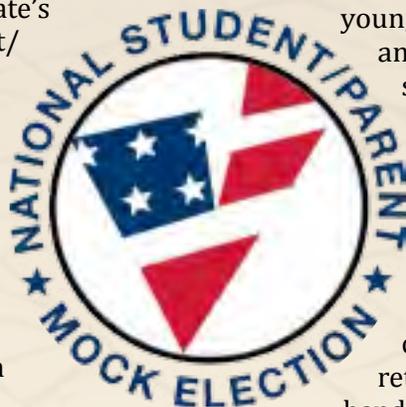
This year's National Student/Parent Mock Election

will be held Nov. 1. In 2008, over 5 million students cast ballots in the program nationwide and at American schools around the world, including military bases. Watch our website, www.sos.arkansas.gov, or just watch your local news, for results after this year's event.

The Secretary of State's office also encourages young people to vote through the semi-annual Young Voter workshop for high school students. The fall session, scheduled for mid-September, will feature the Capitol historian providing a brief overview of government and the election process.

The Young Voter workshop brings students from each of the state's four congressional districts. Many schools return each year so their teens can learn hands-on about the election process and the difficulties faced in expanding the right to vote to women and minorities, and others who didn't own land.

For information about participating in either program, contact the Secretary of State's education team at (501) 682-3025.



Programs Help Share State's Past, Preserve It for the Future

The Communication & Education division has continued outreach in many forms across the state this summer.

The State Capitol is one of central Arkansas's major tourist attractions. Over 5,000 visitors have spent time at the Capitol over the past few months. Besides numerous states, visitors have hailed from locations as far-flung as Israel, Turkey, Great Britain and New Zealand.

Staff members conducted the annual teacher workshop series "Using the State Capitol to Teach." More than 450 educators registered for 13 teacher workshops, which provided continuing education credits in Arkansas history.



Lisa Young leads a summer workshop at the Capitol

Through the Arkansas State Symbols presentation last school year, almost 2,000 elementary students learned about various state symbols and their relation to Arkansas. This program is being updated with new photos and materials to give students an improved firsthand look at the state symbols.

Community outreach personnel have conducted more than 200 county visits this year. This staff meets with elected county officials, chambers of commerce and civic organizations, as well as scheduling special occasions for Secretary Martin to visit counties.

Visitors to the Capitol's upper floors have probably seen composite pictures of the General Assemblies through the years. Secretary of State photographers are undertaking a long-term project to preserve those images electronically. When completed, the digital files will be available online through the Secretary of State's website. For a behind-the-scenes look at the project, visit www.youtube.com/ArkansasSOS.

The division is also preparing for the annual State Capitol Lighting Ceremony, which will be held Saturday, December 1. More information about the ceremony will be available online at www.sos.arkansas.gov.

ELECTIONS, continued from page 1

We encourage voters to check their voting location before going to vote. They can either go to our Voter View website, www.voterview.org, or call their local county clerk."

Early voting will begin Monday, October 22, and continue through Monday, November 5. Voters can contact their county clerk's office to find early voting locations.

Military and overseas absentee voters can request an absentee ballot from their local county clerk by using either the traditional absentee ballot application provided by their clerk or the Federal Post Card Application. If they choose to participate in the Ballot Safe program, they should include their e-mail address and indicate on their absentee ballot application that they wish to use the new electronic delivery system.

The military or overseas voter can receive electronic access to a ballot which he can print, complete and mail to the local county clerk.

Registration deadline

"Presidential election years always bring an increase in voter registration," Martin said. "State and federal laws set the deadline to register to vote in an election at 30 days before that election. Since that is a weekend this year, the deadline to register to vote in the General Election is Tuesday, Oct. 9 since Monday is a federal (mail) holiday."

Would-be voters should not assume that simply dropping

the application in the mail is all that is necessary. "If an applicant has not received a voter registration card from the local county clerk within two weeks of submitting the registration application, he should call the clerk's office to make sure they received the registration form," Martin said.

Training and updates

The division has continued training for county clerks, county election commissioners and other election officials. These sessions have provided instruction in voter registration, military and overseas absentee ballot delivery, NVRA voter registration for clients of public assistance agencies, coding of ballots, use of Election Day equipment, tabulation procedures and security measures for voting machines.

The new election night reporting system, introduced during the May primary, will likely be heavily used during November's General Election, Martin said. The system allows the public to monitor results in real time as they are posted on the Secretary of State's website, www.sos.arkansas.gov. Users can check results and voter turnout for the entire state or broken down by county and precinct level.

"We're excited about the training and the options we're offering to the public this year," Martin said. "We're making election information more accessible and user-friendly, and we believe voters will benefit from that."

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Remember to Vote!

Early Voting Oct. 22 - Nov. 5
Election Day Tuesday Nov. 6

Martin Visits Military Voters in Middle East

Secretary Martin was among five secretaries who traveled to the Middle East in September at the invitation of the U.S. Secretary of Defense. The mission allowed Secretary Martin to visit with military members in the field, thank them for their selfless service and evaluate military and overseas voting nearly two years into implementation of the MOVE Act (Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment).



Martin joined secretaries from Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan and Nevada for the six-day program in early September. They visited Camp Arifjan in Kuwait, Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar and U.S. Naval Support Activity in Bahrain. Along the way, the delegation saw firsthand how election materials are marked, processed and tracked in the military postal system.

The secretaries also visited with U.S. Embassy officials in each country and learned about the obstacles facing non-military voters in the region, such as difficulty in faxing internationally and unreliable mail service. Internet access is faster

and more reliable for both civilians and military personnel, but state and federal laws must change to make online voting possible.

"As a Navy veteran, I really enjoyed stepping on board the U.S.S. Ponce in Bahrain and talking with those sailors," Secretary Martin said. "I completely understand the difficult job they're doing for our country. The least we can do is to simplify the process of voting for them."

